

What is claimed is:

1. Activated carbon, obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, has a median particle size ranging a range from 4  $\mu\text{m}$  to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  in a particle size distribution when measured by laser diffraction method, and the particle size distribution has at least a peak located at a particle size which is lower than the median particle size.
2. Activated carbon according to claim 1, wherein activated carbon particles of not larger than 2  $\mu\text{m}$  is not less than 10% by weight in a cumulative distribution of the activated carbon particles.
3. A polarizing electrode for an electric double layer capacitor, comprising an activated carbon obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, wherein the activated carbon has a median particle size within a range from 4  $\mu\text{m}$  to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  in the particle size distribution as measured by a laser diffraction method and has at least a peak observed on the side of smaller particle size than the median particle size in the particle size distribution.
4. The polarizing electrode for an electric double layer

capacitor according to claim 1, wherein the activated carbon contains 10% or more in accumulated percentage of particles having sizes not larger than 2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. An electric double layer capacitor comprising an electrode unit comprising a current collector and polarizing electrode, a separator and an electrolytic solution, wherein the polarizing electrode is made of an activated carbon obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, while the activated carbon has a median particle size within a range from 4  $\mu\text{m}$  to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  in the particle size distribution as measured by a laser diffraction method and has at least a peak observed on the side of smaller particle size than the median particle size in the particle size distribution.

6. Activated carbon, obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, wherein the activated carbon particles comprises not less than 10% by weight of particles not larger than 2  $\mu\text{m}$  in a cumulative distribution and particles which bulk density is within a range of 0.18 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to 0.25 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

7. Activated carbon according to claim 6, wherein a fluidity index of the activated carbon particles is within a range of 0.47 to 0.52.

8. A polarizing electrode for an electric double layer capacitor, comprising an activated carbon obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, wherein the activated carbon contains 10% or more in accumulated percentage of particles having sizes not larger than 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and has a bulk density within a range from 0.18 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to 0.25 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

9. The polarizing electrode for an electric double layer capacitor according to claim 8, wherein the activated carbon has a fluidity index within a range from 0.47 to 0.52.

10. An electric double layer capacitor comprising an electrode unit comprising a current collector and polarizing electrode, a separator and an electrolytic solution, wherein the polarizing electrode is made of an activated carbon obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, and the activated carbon contains 10% or more in accumulated percentage of particles having sizes not larger than 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and has a bulk density within a range from 0.18 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to 0.25 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.